

The Crucible, Act IV, by Arthur Miller
Selection Test B

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- ____ 1. The setting of Act IV is
 - A. Parris's house, where the investigation began.
 - B. the Salem jail, the autumn after the trial.
 - C. the prison in Andover, just before the Proctors' child is due.
 - D. Danforth's chambers in Boston, where he hears final appeals.

- ____ 2. What can the audience infer from the brief scene involving Tituba, Sarah Good, and Herrick that opens Act IV?
 - A. Tituba and Sarah Good are about to be executed for witchcraft.
 - B. Tituba and Sarah Good have come to believe the accusations against them.
 - C. Herrick is drinking in order to dull his anguish at the injustices being done.
 - D. Herrick has come to believe in the visions described by Tituba and Sarah Good.

- ____ 3. Parris hopes that Rebecca Nurse and John Proctor will confess because he believes that
 - A. confession will save their souls from damnation.
 - B. sparing their lives will prevent public rebellion.
 - C. their confessions will confirm the justice of all the trials and executions.
 - D. their confessions will strengthen the faith of doubting parishioners.

- ____ 4. What idea about the law is conveyed by Danforth's determination to proceed with the executions immediately?
 - A. Judges tend to be corrupted by the power of their office.
 - B. To delay doing justice is to commit injustice.
 - C. Laws made by human beings cannot be reconciled with divine law.
 - D. Injustice may be committed in the name of the law.

- ____ 5. What is ironic about calling the confessions of witchcraft "coming to God"?
 - A. The confessions are made publicly, not in prayer.
 - B. The confessions are lies and therefore sins against God.
 - C. The confessions confirm that sins against God have been committed.
 - D. Confession saves the confessor from death, thereby postponing the confessor's "coming to God."

- ____ 6. What lesson has Elizabeth Proctor learned during her three months' imprisonment?
 - A. that all people carry the seeds of evil within themselves
 - B. that human beings cannot be held responsible for their actions
 - C. that one should not judge human frailty too harshly
 - D. that there are no meaningful standards of right and wrong

- ____ 7. When Proctor refuses to condemn others to save himself, his behavior contrasts most strongly with the behavior of
 - A. Parris.
 - B. Hathorne.
 - C. Danforth.
 - D. Corey.

- ___ 8. The climax of Act IV occurs when
- A. Parris reveals that Abigail Williams has disappeared.
 - B. Elizabeth Proctor is brought into the cell.
 - C. Proctor decides to confess to witchcraft.
 - D. Proctor refuses to sign the confession.
- ___ 9. Which theme is reflected by Proctor's decision to tear up the confession?
- A. Personal honor determines the worth of one's self.
 - B. Government authority can be resisted single-handedly.
 - C. Forgiveness can be extended to the guilty as well as the innocent.
 - D. The variability of justice is an evil in itself.
- ___ 10. Proctor's determination to preserve his good name speaks to the McCarthy era of the 1950's in that
- A. fear of persecution caused many to keep silent.
 - B. laws were passed to prevent this kind of persecution.
 - C. the Salem authorities act like communists.
 - D. reputations were ruined by irresponsible accusations.
- ___ 11. A theme represented by Danforth's behavior is that
- A. good and evil must finally be determined by law.
 - B. those in power tend to act in the interest of preserving power.
 - C. the absence of evidence renders authority powerless.
 - D. legal systems cannot take personal character into account.
- ___ 12. After Proctor is taken off to execution, Parris urges Elizabeth to go to her husband in order to
- A. comfort him in his final moments.
 - B. try once more to persuade him to confess.
 - C. show that she believes the death sentence is just.
 - D. make a last appeal to the mercy of the judges.
- ___ 13. Which idea about the play is applicable today?
- A. Superstitions of colonial America are no longer an issue.
 - B. Belief in the supernatural is *ipso facto* dangerous.
 - C. Government is overly concerned with religious issues.
 - D. Fear and suspicion can lead to perversions of justice.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 14. Someone who is *adamant* is
- A. condemned.
 - B. regretful.
 - C. numb.
 - D. stubborn.

- ___ 15. Someone who is *conciliatory* is a(n)
- A. advisor.
 - B. opponent.
 - C. peacemaker.
 - D. scholar.
- ___ 16. Which sentence is grammatically *correct*?
- A. *The Crucible* raises issues about paranoia, politics, and personality.
 - B. The play raised above merely historical drama by considering contemporary events.
 - C. Miller's treatment of the theme had risen modern issues.
 - D. Miller's own raise from a poor childhood is inspiring.
- ___ 17. Which sentence is grammatically *incorrect*?
- A. Perhaps it is not so amazing that the citizens raised so little objection to the persecution of neighbors.
 - B. Reverend Hale in particular, whose opinion of Proctor rose each time they met, should have stopped things.
 - C. If Hale had rose to object sooner, senseless tragedy might have been averted.
 - D. Raising questions about the accusers' motives would have been a good place to start.

Essay

18. In Act IV, we learn that Abigail has stolen money and run away, but we do not hear exactly why. Write an essay in which you assess her motives for running away, based on what you know of her from the play. Use examples from the play to support your answer.
19. The word *crucible* means "a container for melting or purifying metals" and "a severe test." Why are both meanings appropriate for Miller's play? Write an essay explaining how characters are both reduced to their essences and tested. Use examples from the play to support your ideas.
20. Trials for sorcery, heresy, and witchcraft had been going on for centuries in Europe. Inquisitions had occurred since the Middle Ages, and the judicial methods used were not far different from those in *The Crucible*. Why do you think Miller might have chosen the Salem witch trials of 1692? How does this setting serve his dramatic and thematic goals? Write an essay explaining why Salem, Massachusetts, is an appropriate setting for the themes of *The Crucible*.